

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

This issue of ПОЛАТА КЪНИГОПИСЬНАЯ continues where it left off some years ago: with information about Slavic MSS and collections hitherto unknown or not fully known to science. Ralph Cleminson surveys the *Cyrillic MSS Codices at Budapest University Library*, Richard Nowak (before becoming a lawyer most successful in deals relating Eastern and Western Europe) surveys the *Cyrillic and Glagolitic MSS Codices*, both at *Kraków* and in the libraries of *Northern Italy*, and Andrej Pliguzov and William Veder survey *Harvard University Library*. We are happy to be able to include specimen reproductions of some of the items described with the help of scanning equipment now at our disposal.

A new theme for ПОЛАТА КЪНИГОПИСЬНАЯ (but a *desideratum* of long) is that of palæography and codicology: Heinz Miklas proposes the foundations of a *Typology of Abbreviations in Cyrillic MSS*, illustrated with material and observations from his work on the *Berlinski Sbornik* (ca. 1275-1325), while Žan Miščenko analyses the elements of abbreviations and the systematic aspects of their various combined realisations in *Four Cyrillic Codices of the 14th Century*. The latter also proposes a most interesting application of his recognition of the systematic character of abbreviations by individual scribes in a new identification of the scribal hands of the *Bolonskaja psalmyr'*: while the script of each may vary both in size and form, their individual systems of abbreviations show a high degree of constancy and, thus, seem to constitute a reliable criterion for their identification.

The codicological theme is sovereignly treated by Ol'ga Aleksandrovna Knjazevskaja in her *autopsy* (in the most penetrating sense of the term) of the oldest MS of the *Chronicle of George Hamartolos*, occasioned by the restoration of the codex. Another such chance to gain an inside view of an Old Slavic MS, this time occasioned by a restoration to undo the adverse effect of a previous restoration, is reported by William Veder at the end of this issue.

The theme of textology, which has always been a major concern of ПОЛАТА КЪНИГОПИСЬНАЯ is treated in three contributions. The first, by Vera Matveenko and Ljudmila Ščegoleva, is directly related to the subject matter of the *Chronicle of George Hamartolos*. It reports on the questions generated by one of the most powerful tools of textology: translation into a different language. These questions are answered in a way unrivalled so far in the domain of study of early Slavic translation technique, except by Maria Spasova's 1993 Veliko Tărnovo dissertation on the techniques of the successive translations of Anastasius of Sinai's *Questions and Answers* and Gregory of Nazianzus' 13 and 16 *Homilies*, respectively (we shall try to get

that work published in the series *Early Slavic Texts on Microfiche*, published by IDC at Leiden). The second study, by Aleksandr Klement'ev, of the *Office for St. Alexander Svirskij*, is the first to bring into ПОДАТА КЪЗНИГО-ПИСЬМАТА undeservedly neglected liturgical texts. It convincingly shows how the text of the complete office did not evolve in time, but was composed as a whole at the initial stage of the development of the cult and faithfully transmitted ever after, albeit with subsequent practical abbreviations and changes in sequence; the only posterior item seems to be a second canon, for the addition (substitution?) of which causes will have to be identified. This issue is closed by the late Angiolo Danti's classic 1977 statement on the foundations of Slavic textology, undeservedly neglected in its original Polish text.

We sincerely hope that the contributions collected in this issue will help to stimulate continued research into early Slavic books, texts and literatures from all possible complementary points of view.